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of capital depended on the rate of profit, and hence the necessity of high profits for a rapid increase of capital and for national prosperity. Profits are cut down by the growth of rent and the consequent rise of wages through which prosperity is checked. This line of reasoning is not a theory of distribution, although later economists have easily created such a theory from it by certain changes foreign to the thought of Ricardo and to the other economists of his day.

In reality, J. S. Mill makes the beginning of a real theory of distribution, when he says that the laws of production are physical and those of distribution are social. This statement recognizes the fact that the produce of industry is a fund in the possession of society to be divided as its institutions may determine. The theory, however, only became complete when the wage fund theory broke down and economists recognized that wages were paid from the produce of industry and not from capital. From this time the unity of all produce was recognized and the theory of distribution became distinct from the other parts of economics to which it was formerly subordinate.

The theory of distribution in the sense in which Mr. Cannan uses the term in Chapter VIII., is not a part of the period of which he treats. The only theory of distribution of which the earlier economists were conscious is what he terms "pseudo-distribution" and discusses in the seventh chapter.

Mr. Cannan has produced a thoroughly good book—one that is indispensable to every student who desires to know under what conditions the great economists thought and wrote. He has filled an important gap in economic literature and has turned the attention of economists to a long neglected field. It is to be hoped that the success of this book will inspire some one to give us as good an account of the concrete conditions out of which the economics of Adam Smith arose, as Mr. Cannan has given of the Ricardian economics.

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The Law of the Canadian Constitution. By W. H. P. CLEMENT. Pp. xxii, 672. Toronto: Carswell & Co. 1892.

For the ordinary reader and general student this work will not serve so good a purpose as Bourinot's "Parliamentary Procedure and Practice," but to those who are so fortunate as to have had some training in the legal side of history and government, Mr. Clement's volume will prove a most valuable supplement to Bourinot. The great merit of this book, taken as a whole, is the large space given to extracts from decisions of the courts; and while Mr. Clement does not always escape the danger into which even such distinguished jurists and

writers as Cooley and Hare sometimes fall, of mistaking dictum for decision, at the same time his references and quotations are usually so full that the careful student can detect such occasional slips. Legal opinions are certainly not light and easy reading, but a close study of them will amply repay all effort thus expended, and will reveal the true scope and meaning of the constitution a thousand times more accurately than a mere study of the text can ever do.

The first chapter of this book is decidedly the poorest, although it should have been the best, for it is an attempt to compare the Canadian system with the systems of other countries, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States. In this single chapter the reader will perhaps question more assertions and theories than in all the remaining chapters together. The second and third chapters are devoted to a rapid survey of the pre-confederation period; then follow half a dozen chapters on the relations of Canada to the mother country; finally, about two-thirds of the book are occupied with a consideration of internal government of the colony. The author takes up the leading features of the Canadian government topically, and also exhaustively examines the British North America Act of 1867, section by section; in both methods he wisely draws liberally upon judicial opinions to support his own views.

One must not lose sight of the fact that this is a legal and not a political treatise; Mr. Clement seems to recognize that the general reader may forget this, and accordingly he constantly distinguishes between the conventions and the law of the constitution, herein profiting largely from Professor Dicey's remarkable lectures. The Canadian constitution seeks to establish a federal government that shall be free from those uncertainties of the United States constitution, which required in the end a civil war for their settlement; the American student cannot, therefore, do better than to begin with such books as those by Bourinot and Clement, and then go on to the works to which these admirable volumes will introduce him. C. F. A. C.

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Les Origines de l'ancienne France. Par JACQUES FLACH. X^e. et XI^e. Siècles, Vol. II. *Les Origines Communales, la Féodalité et la Chevalerie.* Pp. 584. Paris: Larose et Forcel. 1893.

In the first volume of this series M. Flach has treated of "*Le Régime Seignurial*," or the dissolution of society in France in the tenth and eleventh centuries. This volume he entitles "*La Reconstitution de la Société*," and in it he discusses three of the elements in the reconstruction. The other two—royalty and the church—are left for the succeeding volume. The common basis of the communes,